(c) and (d) Tata Strategic Management Group has published an article in this regard in the Business Standard on September 24, 2009. The Group has suggested some measures like encouraging production of pulses in rice fallow and intercropping, use of HYVs and improving seed replacement rates, proper pest and nutrient management, provision of schedule and controlled irrigation and prevention of post harvest losses. All these measures are already part and parcel of Centrally Sponsored Schemes *viz.* ISOPOM and National Food Security Mission - Pulses programme being implemented in 14 major pulse growing States in the country. The study under reference will be further analized by this department.

MSP of sugarcane

†136. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap between production cost and Minimum Support Price of sugarcane in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether instead of increasing Government has reduced Minimum Support Price of sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The 'Fair and Remunerative Price' (FRP) fixed at Rs. 129.84 per quintal for 2009-10 sugar season is about 44% higher than cost of production of sugarcane including cost of transportation to mill gate. The Central Government has taken a conscious decision to give a margin of 15% on account of profit and 25% on account of risk to farmers over and above the cost of production and transportation during the 2009-10 sugar season.

(c) No, Sir, FRP for sugarcane for 2009-10 sugar season at Rs.129.84 per quintal linked to 9.5% basic recovery rate is higher than the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane during the previous season 2008-09 which was Rs.81.18 per quintal linked to 9.0% recovery rate. This works out to over 51% increase beyond the SMP for sugarcane for 2008-09, on the basis of 9.5% recovery. FRP is only a benchmark price payable will be a negotiable price between the farmers and mills and will have to be equal or above the FRP.

Decline in production of sugarcane

†137. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugarcane produced in the country for the last three years and in the current year so far;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a gradual decrease in the sugarcane production;

(c) if so, the reasons for fall in production and the names of the States facing this shortfall;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) whether Government proposes to set target for producing more sugarcanes in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the details of the measures to be adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The quantum of sugarcane produced in the country during the years 2006-07 to 2009 10 is given in the table below:

Year	Sugarcane Production (Million tonnes)
2006-07	355.52
2007-08	348.19
2008-09*	273.93
2009-10#	249.48

*4th advance estimates released on 07.07.09

#1st Advance Estimates released on 03.11.09

(c) Major reasons which may have impacted the sugarcane production in the last few years include shortfall in area coverage and decline in productivity due to delayed/deficient/un-seasonal rains in the sugarcane producing States, shift in area coverage from sugarcane to other foodgrain crops due to higher minimum support price (MSP) of foodgrain crops; higher percentage of ratoon area lowering yield of sugarcane etc. Major States which experienced fall in sugarcane production are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

(d) A production target of 340.0 million tonnes of sugarcane has been fixed for 2009-10.

(e) In order to increase the production of sugarcane, Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping Systems (SUBACS) in various sugarcane growing States of the country. The main components of the scheme include field demonstrations, training of farmers & extension workers and assistance for implements, seed multiplication, setting up of heat treatment plants and drip irrigation sets. To give more flexibility to the States and implement the scheme on the basis of States' priorities and requirements, this scheme has been clubbed under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture (MMA) development with other 26 schemes. Under the MMA, the scheme is implemented as per the Work Plan prepared by the concerned States. For most of the components, the pattern of assistance between GOI & State Governments is 90:10. In addition, the Government of India provides 100% financial support for organization of front line demonstrations, national level trainings and breeder seed production through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural Universities.